

Introduced by Senator Ashburn

June 23, 2003

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 38—Relative to Valley Fever Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 38, as introduced, Ashburn. Valley Fever Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim August 2003 as Valley Fever Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Valley fever (coccidioidomycosis), a progressive,  
2 multisymptom, respiratory disorder, is a debilitating disease; and

3 WHEREAS, It is caused by the inhalation of tiny airborne fungi  
4 that live in soil, but are released into the air by soil disturbance or  
5 wind; and

6 WHEREAS, Valley fever attacks the respiratory system,  
7 causing infection that can lead to symptoms that resemble a cold,  
8 influenza, or pneumonia-like symptoms; and

9 WHEREAS, Left untreated or mistreated, infection can spread  
10 from the lungs into the bloodstream, causing inflammation to the  
11 skin, permanent damage to lung and bone tissue, and swelling of  
12 the membrane surrounding the brain, leading to meningitis, which  
13 can be devastating and even fatal; and

14 WHEREAS, Once serious symptoms of valley fever appear,  
15 including pneumonia and labored breathing, treatment must be  
16 prompt with antifungal drugs that are disagreeable and often toxic,  
17 especially for patients who have it injected beneath the base of

1 their skulls for meningitis, causing side effects such as nausea,  
2 fever, and kidney damage; and

3 WHEREAS, Within California alone, valley fever is found in  
4 portions of the Sacramento Valley, all of the San Joaquin Valley,  
5 desert regions, and portions of southern California; and

6 WHEREAS, Valley fever affects the young, the elderly, and  
7 those with lowered immune systems, who number in the tens of  
8 thousands; and

9 WHEREAS, Valley fever has been a disease studied for the past  
10 100 years, but still remains impossible to control and difficult to  
11 treat; and

12 WHEREAS, There is no known cure to date for valley fever;  
13 however, researchers are closer than they ever have been in finding  
14 a much needed vaccine to cure this devastating disease; and

15 WHEREAS, The research effort to find a vaccine and the  
16 funding partnership, including funding from the State of  
17 California, was approved by the Legislature and signed by  
18 Governor Wilson in 1997; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature does hereby proclaim  
21 August 2003 as Valley Fever Awareness Month; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
23 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

